What Do You Know About Marijuana and Driving?

True False

1. Low doses of marijuana can affect driving abilities.

2. Convictions for driving after using marijuana have increased over the past few years.

3. Some people drive better when high on marijuana.

4. A driver could be charged with DW/DUI for driving after consuming marijuana.

5. The effects of marijuana wear off after one hour.

See inside for answers.

Whether it is legal or not in your state to use, driving while impaired by marijuana is a crime and a danger to all drivers.

References

Marijuana + Driving = Danger

Many states are legalizing marijuana for therapeutic or recreational use. Whether you choose to use marijuana or not, it's important to understand how this drug can affect the ability to drive safely.

Whether you smoke, vape, or swallow edibles, getting behind the wheel when you're high on marijuana poses a risk to everyone on the road. In fact, next to alcohol, marijuana is the drug most commonly found in drivers who have been involved in collisions.

When ingested, marijuana's active ingredient, THC, enters the bloodstream, rapidly if smoked, and is then distributed throughout the body. In addition to other effects, THC disrupts key parts of the brain that influence the perception of time, concentration, movement, memory, and coordination—all important to safe driving.

Drivers who have ingested marijuana may not be able to accurately perceive the traffic environment, make good decisions or take appropriate actions based on their decisions. Although research results are mixed, some studies show that, for drivers using marijuana, their crash risk approximately doubles—that's an increase of 100%!

Plus, research shows that drivers involved in crashes who tested positive for THC were three to seven times more likely to be responsible for having caused the collision.

Bottom Line: Never ingest marijuana and drive.